

one hundred million BSA youth members to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Each year, Cub Scout packs commemorate scouting and its enduring principles with a Blue and Gold Banquet. The pack celebrates scouts, pack leaders and other adults who have contributed to the pack's health and vibrancy. I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the following Cub Scouts in Pack 976 who will be recognized at the 2011 Blue and Gold Banquet for advancing to the next level of scouting.

The Order of the Arrow is awarded to scouts that best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. The following individuals are being awarded the Order of the Arrow this evening.

Chris Arcangeli, John Cheng, Hank Reinhardt, Cyrus Robinson, Holden Snyder, Nicolas Bocock, Nicholas Baltas, Jack Heerink, Charlie McGarry, Noah Strike, Danny Flood, Austin Gillmore, Salim Roustom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Boy Scouts of America, their one hundred year anniversary and the 2011 Blue and Gold Banquet for Cub Scout Pack 976. The BSA sets a high standard for integrity and strength of character. I admire all scouts who seek to uphold the BSA core principles, and extend my sincere best wishes to the Cub Scouts of Pack 976 as they strive to realize their scouting potential.

#### HONORING MR. RAYMON P. DONES

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of one of the nation's first and greatest African-American construction project developers, Mr. Raymon P. Dones. A loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great great-grandfather and friend, Mr. Dones was also a talented entrepreneur, businessman, inventor and civil rights trailblazer. With Mr. Dones' passing at the age of 92, we are reminded of his life's journey and the joyful legacy he inspired.

Born in 1918, Mr. Dones learned the electrical and plumbing trades while working as a Pullman car porter in Denver, Colorado. After earning his electrical contracting license, he founded Dones Electric, which later became incorporated as Aladdin Electric in Oakland, California. Mr. Dones' broad interests also included inventing. He received a U.S. patent for the design of a loud speaker enclosure in 1964.

In the mid-1960s, Mr. Dones became a leading force in advocating for minority contractors and their employees. Working with Joe Debro and Frank Poole, he helped found a group to fight for increased opportunities for minority contractors, which later became the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC). In 1969, Mr. Dones was elected NAMC president and Mr. Debro became executive director.

Today the nonprofit trade association boasts chapters in 49 states, as well as England, South Africa and the Virgin Islands. Mr. Dones

was also instrumental in establishing Project Upgrade, one of the first construction trades apprenticeship training programs in the United States. In the Bay Area, Mr. Dones participated in building or subcontracting a considerable part of Oakland's landscape, including the MORH and Acorn housing developments in West Oakland, the West Oakland Health Center and the early construction of Oakland City Center.

Even into his late 80s, Mr. Dones continued to volunteer in the community and work with his son, my good friend Alan, who followed his footsteps as a leader in minority contracting and development. A recipient of many accolades throughout his career, Mr. Dones was named one of the most influential people in the construction industry by Engineering News-Record Magazine in 1999.

Ray was a Renaissance Man. As a Capitol Hill staffer for former Congressman and Mayor Ron Dellums during the 70s and 80s, I remember how Ray came to Washington, D.C. to educate staff regarding the importance of minority business participation. He was a tireless advocate and knew how to influence public policy on behalf of minority contractors. We became close friends and Ray and his beloved late wife, Inez, also became some of my longstanding supporters as an elected official. His smile and kind words of support always gave me encouragement and inspiration to continue the fight. I will miss this great warrior tremendously.

In addition to his notable career and influence, Mr. Dones was a proud husband to the late Inez Dones, and father to their extensive family. The couple both came to their union with three children from prior relationships, and had two more children together. Mr. Dones will be deeply missed by his surviving children, and a host of grandchildren, loved ones and friends.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, Mr. Raymon P. Dones. The contributions he made to others throughout his life are countless and precious. My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones. May his soul rest in peace.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO CSC(SW) OSCAR FLORES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Chief Culinary Specialist (Surface Warfare) Oscar Flores in honor of his retirement from the United States Navy. Chief Culinary Specialist Oscar Flores has provided 23 years of faithful and devoted service to the United States Navy and to the citizens of our country.

Since 1988, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores has been dedicated to the U.S. Navy and their mission to protect the United States and her citizens. He started as a Mess Management Specialist, and as Chief Culinary Specialist Flores always went above and beyond the line of duty, he rose through the ranks to Chief Petty Officer. With his talents and exceptional culinary skills, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores has provided outstanding service to the Clin-

ton family. His energy and dedication have been a tribute to the first family and his country.

Additionally, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores earned the dignified title of the Commanding Officer's Chef while aboard the USS *Fort Fisher* (LSD 40) as Galley Watch Captain and aboard the USS *Essex* (LHD 2) as Wardroom Supervisor. On shore, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores has proven his loyal leadership as Petty Officer in charge of BEQ/BOQ Operations at Naval Submarine Base Point Loma, CA. I also recognize Chief Culinary Specialist Flores for his many decorations and awards including the Presidential Service Badge, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and numerous individual, unit and campaign ribbons.

Chief Culinary Specialist Flores represents the best of what our Nation has to offer and has demonstrated exemplary and laudable service while on the Presidential Food Service Staff at the White House as Chef and Personal Enlisted Aide to the President.

Chief Culinary Specialist Flores' tireless work ethic will be missed by the U.S. Navy, though his strong commitment continues as a Personal Chef, Personal Aide, and Director of Operations at the Clinton Residence.

I am honored to congratulate Chief Culinary Specialist Flores on the occasion of his retirement and further extend my gratitude for his many faithful years of service to the United States Navy.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 23RD AMENDMENT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 23rd Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted the citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote for President and Vice President. This victory fifty years ago was one of the early victories in the long and continuing struggle of District of Columbia residents for equal rights as American citizens. The 23rd Amendment provided the District of Columbia with three electors for President and Vice President, allowing D.C. residents to vote for the nation's highest offices for the first time since the city was created as the nation's capital.

Only two Members of Congress, Representative JOHN DINGELL and Senator DANIEL INOUE, remain in office from the period of introduction and ratification of the 23rd Amendment, when both were members of the House of Representatives. I was away at college then, but it was clear that an important catalyst for the amendment was the birth of the civil rights movement with the Birmingham bus boycott. The civil rights movement was key in moving Congress to afford the presidential and vice presidential votes to the citizens of the nation's capital, which had become a majority African American city at that time.

The original joint resolution, H.J. Res. 757, was reported favorably by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 9, 1960. The accompanying report made clear that the